

To the Montgomery County Council:

I would encourage the Montgomery County Council to reject the Vaccine Passport Requirement. While I am fully vaccinated, I have several concerns with this unnecessary and oppressive requirement.

Some people are understandably concerned about the rushed process to approve this “emergency” vaccine. While it is reasonable to require FDA-approved vaccines that have gone through the appropriate testing process, this is not one of them. I support the decision of each individual to decide whether they feel comfortable with regard to their own health.

Requiring vaccination passports is a frightening infringement on individual rights. “Show me your papers” brings scary images of totalitarian regimes whose aim is to coerce citizens into their way of thinking.

Introducing this legislation while businesses are just starting to recover from the mandated shutdowns by the government back in 2020 is unthinkable. As one business owner put it: “Battling enough as it is with staffing and everything, last thing we need is our government making more restrictions, making it even harder for other things. Again maybe if this county was highly unvaccinated but we are not, we are doing everything they’ve asked and now they just keep putting more layers in there and it’s just getting really old, to be honest with you,” said Sahakian, the owner of the Quincy pubs in the area as well as Title Boxing Club.” (1)

In Montgomery County, Maryland, 1,037,547 people (95.0%) have received at least one dose and 883,123 (84.1%) are fully vaccinated. County Executive Marc Elrich argues that if we do not have the passport mandate and DC does, their unvaccinated residents will come to Montgomery County for entertainment. But the DC vaccination rate is not much lower than Montgomery, currently 91% with one dose and almost 70% fully vaccinated. With such high compliance in both jurisdictions, why do we need such draconian methods to try and force compliance?

If this legislation goes into effect, when does it end? Will this be a never-ending requirement? Will businesses forever have to comply with this burdensome rule?

I would encourage the Montgomery County Council to forego this onerous regulation. Let individual businesses set their own policies with regard to vaccination requirements and your citizens make their own health decisions.

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(1)<https://wjla.com/news/coronavirus/montgomery-county-maryland-covid19-pandemic-proof-vaccine-requirement-passport-bars-restaurants-gyms-executive-marc-elrich>